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## Easterner, Vol. 65, No. 17, February 19, 2014

Associated Students of Eastern Washington University

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# THE EASTERNER

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## Eastern students lobby at state capitol

Photo by Shannon Bedell

Students from across Washington state gathered in Olympia, Wash., to participate in the Student Association's annual Lobby Day on Feb. 14, where students were able to interact with law makers.

By Shannon Bedell  
STAFF WRITER  
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As the sky continued to bring down fat raindrops, the first sight of the giant pillars and dome of the capitol building came into view. It was a sight of great magnitude symbolizing not only the importance of the building but the impact of this place's ability to make a change.

EWU students participated in Washington Student Association's annual Lobby Day on Feb. 14. Lobby Day allows students from universities across the state to share their concerns and see Washington's government in action. The

event is sponsored by the Washington Student Association which is an organization made entirely of students from Washington's colleges. The association works to represent collective student interests in Olympia.

This year's Lobby Day allowed participants the chance to meet with House representatives and senators on some of the main issues currently affecting education. Eastern was represented by 17 students.

Some of the current issues being worked on in Olympia are the Dream Act, in-state tuition for veterans and keeping higher education affordable for students.

The day began with a rally on the steps of the Temple of Justice in

which Rep. Gerry Pollett and Marcus Ricelli spoke, along with stories from students who had personal experience with some of the current education issues.

EWU graduate student in public health, Elena Calderon, explained at the rally what it is like to be an undocumented 1079 student. This is a student able to attend university and pay tuition but is not allowed to legally work or qualify for federal financial aid.

"It's me. It's us. It's having to navigate an education system where barriers are set up everywhere to prevent us from getting a college education," said Calderon.

Calderon lived with the fear of asking the financial aid office ques-

tions on scholarships, the one form of aid she was able to receive, because she did not want them to ask for documents like a social security card or birth certificate.

"You go and hide and are afraid of your own university. It's really hard to feel comfortable in an environment where you're scared of being who you are," said Calderon.

Rep. Pollett, from the 46th District, discussed the importance of keeping tuition down and of the importance of making higher education more affordable for Washingtonians, no matter their family income.

"We can afford it, damn it," said Pollett.

Pollett went on to discuss the importance of this issue and a bill that

would touch on the subject later in the day.

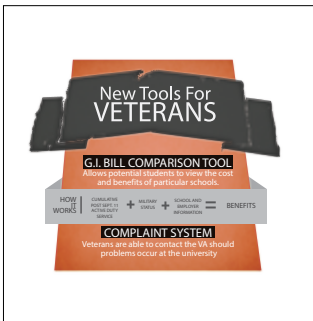
After the rally, students discussed current bills within small groups that they wanted to discuss with senators and representatives. Students learned how to pitch "asks," or support for different bills, in actual meetings with officials.

They also had the opportunity to attend meetings with senators on the wings of the floor and in their offices, while House representatives were asked to come off the floor to take the time to meet with students in the lobby.

OLYMPIA - PAGE 8

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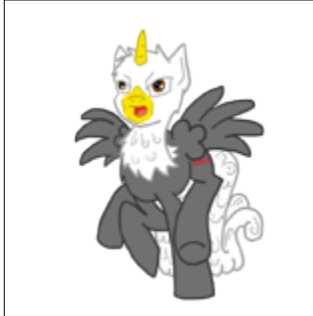
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Photo by Sam Sargeant

Morgan Ouellette skates up the ice during the game on Feb. 15 in the URC.

## Men's hockey wins big in do-or-die situation

By Ashlee Coffey  
STAFF WRITER  
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Eastern men's hockey defeated Trinity Western University 4-2 here at Eastern Washington University, Feb. 15.

"I thought we were OK in the first period, but our second period was really sluggish. We didn't take advantage of a team that had played the night before," head coach Bill Shaw said. "In the third period, I feel like we took advantage of them playing the night before. We got a really balanced effort from everyone in the lineup. That is what we will need to keep winning."

The first goal came for the Eagle's at the 9:03 mark in the first period from senior Alec Burks. The second goal came in the second period from J.R. Strait at the 2:52 mark. The next two goals came in the third

period at the 2:55 mark from senior Jake Flynn and at the 0:59 mark from senior Brandon Butler.

"There are three games left in the regular season and for some guys the last games of competitive hockey we'll ever play, so win or lose everyone is putting in their best effort," senior Ryan Pajimola said.

Penalties for this game remained relatively low for both team. Eastern finished with only five penalties, while Trinity Western finished with four for the game,

"Everyone is just in a more intense state of mind. We have to go out and play our best and win or the season is over," sophomore Uriah Machuga said. "Everyone expects a lot out of the guy next to him."

Eastern plays at home for the next two games on Feb. 21 and Feb. 23.



Photo by Karissa Berg

Gerald Hankerson gave a presentation on the justice system through his own experience.

## Speaker recounts brush with death row, court system

By Aaron Bocook  
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At age 19, Gerald Hankerson was sitting on death row at the Washington State Penitentiary in Walla Walla, Wash.

Last week, Student Activities, Involvement and Leadership, in collaboration with the Africana studies education department, invited Hankerson, now age 44, to speak at Eastern in celebration of Black History Month.

In 2009, Hankerson became the first man in Washington state history to be released from prison after being sentenced to death. Just under five years after he was granted clemency, Hankerson became the president of the NAACP Alaska, Oregon and Washington and advocates for injustice as a part of his career.

Dr. Scott Finnie of the Africana Education department introduced him to thunderous applause.

"What Mr. Hankerson brings to us is a real life experience," Finnie said. "Rather than just a theory or a discussion about social justice."

When he was a teenager, Gerald Hankerson moved to Seattle from Georgia to make a new life for himself.

HANKERSON - PAGE 4

#### Upcoming events:



Visit easterneronline.com

Spring quarter registration is quickly approaching. Registration opens Feb. 19 for continuing seniors.

In honor of **Black History Month**, the JFK Library will have a timeline display in the lobby from Jan. 27 to Feb. 28.

You still have time to participate in **Eastern's Days of Kindness**, which ends Feb. 21. This week of kindness was set aside to commemorate the shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School. Take a photo of your act of kindness and send it to the event's Facebook page.

On **Feb. 24**, **Christine Johnson** will come to Eastern to give her Ted Talks Series speech on saying "Yes," which is about standing up in the face of courage. Her presentation will be from **1-2 p.m. in Monroe Hall 207**.

The **Naked Lunch Break** series occurs every **Thursday** through **March 13** from **11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** in the Phase One auditorium on the Riverpoint Campus. This is a free event featuring local authors as well as an open mic and free pizza.

**Alpha Kappa Psi** is hosting a business wear fashion show on **Feb. 28** at the **Macy's in River Park Square**.



# EWU alumnus' past guides community service efforts

By Wilson Criscione  
STAFF WRITER  
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Tommy Williams encountered endless obstacles before founding non-profit organization Operation Healthy Family, and at every hurdle he has overcome, he remembers one moment: Sitting in the dean's office of his high school in Chicago, being told he was expelled.

"That moment changed my whole future," Williams said.

Williams was expelled for bullying a classmate to the point where the classmate's hair fell out from the harassment. It ignited a long journey which inevitably led him to Eastern Washington, where he founded Operation Healthy Family. The organization reaches out to children across the area in a variety of ways, whether it is informing them about oral health or teaching them how to play disc golf. But the program Williams devotes the most time to is his "See It, Say It" program, where he tours Spokane public schools in an effort to prevent bullying.

Williams used to be a star football player. At his private high school in Chicago, many players on the team were being recruited by football powers like Notre Dame, Illinois or Wisconsin. When Williams was placed on varsity as a sophomore, a rare feat, he saw a road to the NFL. He used to be bullied when he was younger, but as soon as he made varsity, the tables turned.

"My head just got big, man," Williams said.

After the expulsion, he went to

Hyde Park Career Academy, a Chicago public high school. But he still had problems. He missed class, had too much fun and his grades plummeted. He graduated with a 1.6 GPA. While his friends were talking about the colleges they were going to, he again went back in his mind to the time in Father Schonowski's office when he was expelled, wondering how things could be different.

He decided to go to a community college. Though Illinois still wanted to give him a football scholarship, he could not get his grades up to earn it.

That is when EWU showed up on his doorstep, asking him to come to Washington to play football. He accepted, and he flourished with Eastern's team.

"I played every game at EWU thinking about Father Schonowski's office, pissed off," Williams said. "We balled out."

After leaving Eastern early and being projected as a seventh round pick, nobody in the NFL drafted him. So he went to the Canadian Football League. One of the players ahead of him in the rotation was signed by the Kansas City Chiefs, so he had high hopes that he could be signed too if he played well.

He broke his ankle in the first game.

"You know what I was thinking about, right? 1987, Father Schonowski's office," he said.

While attempting to get his life together, he eventually went back to Eastern to finish his degree in criminal justice before going on to complete a master's degree in sports risk management at WSU.



Tommy Williams is the founder of Operation Healthy Family, an organization that educates children on health and bullying.

He wanted to help people, but not be suppressed while doing it.

So he created Operation Healthy Family. Recently, the anti-bullying campaign has taken off. He now tours 12 schools in the Spokane area where he teaches kids how to

stop the bullying cycle by not being an idle bystander, and instead being what he says is a "reactor." And more schools are calling him.

"It's all the things I learned about in my life," Williams said. "I wrote them down in this program."

The program emphasizes the need for kids to be friendly to victims of bullying and to report it.

WILLIAMS - PAGE 8

# Students could face damage fine for broken sink in snyamncut hall

### WHO PAYS FOR THE KITCHEN SINK

Each student is personally responsible and liable for his/her prorated share of the university's cost for replacement or damage to the structure or furnishings.

DAMAGES IN COMMUNITY AREAS MAY RESULT IN AN EQUAL ASSESSMENT OF CHARGES TO MEMBERS LIVING WITHIN THAT COMMUNITY OR APPROPRIATE MEMBERS AS DETERMINED BY THE UNIVERSITY.

EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY 2013-2014 HOUSING AND DINING SERVICES CONTRACT, SECTION 10a.

EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY 2013-2014 HOUSING AND DINING SERVICES CONTRACT, SECTION 10b.

By Aaron Bocook  
STAFF WRITER  
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Residents of snyamncut, EWU's new residence hall, grew restless as they waited to find out if a fine for damages would be applied equally to all residents of the building's third floor.

Barbara Ratcliff, associate director of Housing and Residential Life for business operations, said in early November 2013, the metal basin of a sink in the communal kitchen on the third floor was broken from the counter, and the faucet was also damaged.

The damage was assessed by EWU's maintenance team, as well as the contractors still working on the building. They said it had been hit with enough force to break the industrial silicon epoxy seal which held the metal basin of the sink in place.

"Our preference when something like this happens is to have the individual, or the group of people, to take responsibility for it and to pay for the damage," Ratcliff said.

Housing and Residential Life gave staff and students some time to identify who was responsible.

Ratcliff said CAs began to communicate with residents of the hall, and based on rumors that have been circulating, there was a sense that at least some students knew what happened.

Sophomore Rina Soriano, a resident on the floor, said she heard there was some kind of party in the kitchen, and while some people were roughhousing, they broke the sink.

Junior McKenzie Williams, another third-floor resident, said she heard the roughhousing story too, along with a rumor that it was simply an accident and

a claim that the sink was not properly installed.

Nobody came forward to claim responsibility, nor did any witnesses surface.

In the student damages section of the housing contract, it states that each student is responsible and liable for his or her prorated share of the university's cost for replacement or repair for damage to the structure or furnishings.

However, damages in communal areas may result in an equal assessment of damage charges to members living within the community, or appropriate members, as determined by the university.

Ratcliff said that residence halls are all set up a little bit differently, and in snyamncut, each floor is considered a contained community area.

Each floor of snyamncut holds up to 88 residents. Housing determined that 75-78 students were living

on the third floor last November.

If nobody comes forward, every student living on the third floor at the time of the incident will be charged an equal portion for repair of the damages to the sinks.

The original damage estimate seemed high. Ratcliff said the rates of the contractors are higher and less specific than EWU's in-house maintenance.

She said housing is working on getting the rate reduced, but even at the current cost, students on the third floor will only be facing a fine of about \$5 each. Ratcliff said a lot of students just want to get it out of the way and pay it.

Soriano and Williams both said that they will pay if they have to but are frustrated that nobody has come forward.

"I would be upset. I'd probably just pay it," Soriano said.

SINK - PAGE 8

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# Student services provided for taxes

By Chris Mudd  
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The due date for filing taxes is approaching, and some students are not particularly sure what to do about it.

"For me, it was pretty easy," said junior Mikayla Daniels. "I used TurboTax, which has a free option for the standard 1040 filing. I filed on the [Jan.] 31st, and the refund came on the [Feb.] 8th." The 1040 file is the standard document filed when a person submits their taxes for the year.

The TurboTax website claims that filing taxes is as simple as informing them "if you own a home, if you have any children and about any charitable donations you made this year." They also claim to be completely up to date on tax laws, including healthcare.

Other students, like Phil Peckels are lucky enough to not have to worry about taxes this year. "I'm still claimed on my parents taxes, so it'd be pretty pointless for me to do that. I'm

also totally unemployed at the moment, so it's not like I have anything to claim anyway," Peckels said.

The age requirement to be listed as a dependent is currently up to 24, if the student goes to school full time. A full-time student requires 12 credit hours.

"I haven't done mine yet because I'm lazy and busy," said another student, John Gunderson. "I'm not really worried about it. I made less than \$5,000, so it's not a big deal."

While the online option is viable for some students, some EWU accounting students are volunteering as tax preparers for the Internal Revenue Service's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program at the United Way site. The EWU students volunteer on Fridays, while over 60 students from Gonzaga University work one-on-one with students every Tuesday and Saturday.

While tax season can be a confusing time for some students, there are plenty of options at their disposal to make the process much easier.

## 2013 Tax Help

### Date Taxes are due

Day of Week	Month	Date
Tuesday	April	15

Age requirement to be listed as dependent if student goes to school full time	
24	

Ways To File Taxes	Cost
TurboTax	Free to \$139.99
The United Way	Free Tax Return for low-income individuals

For more info contact Tara Dowd at 509-838-6581 or tarad@unitedwayspokane.org

Graphic by Kyle Pearson

# G.I. Bill adds tools for student veterans, opens communication

By Chris Mudd  
STAFF WRITER  
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The United States Department of Veterans Affairs is implementing new systems to assist veterans using the financial aid provided by the G.I. Bill.

A comparison tool has been added to the Veteran Affairs website to allow potential students to view the cost and benefits of particular schools. For example, the benefit estimator on the comparison tool lists that the G.I. Bill covers 100 percent of tuition and fees, \$1,000 as a book stipend annually and \$1,077 a month for housing.

The tool uses a college navigator, which lists specific indicators about schools, such as graduation, loan and median borrowing rates.

"The plan is to be able to compare three schools at a time," said director of the Veterans Resource Center Dave Millet. "Right now the system is in beta, so we're not able to do more than one."

"EWU has about 500 [veterans] and 100 or so family members of veterans who also get benefits," Millet said.

Along with the new tools for selecting a school, the VA also added a complaint system, where veterans can contact the VA should problems occur at the university.

"Since we've opened, we maybe get one or two a year. Usually, we are able to handle problems

## New Tools For VETERANS

### G.I. BILL COMPARISON TOOL

Allows potential students to view the cost and benefits of particular schools

HOW IT WORKS	CUMULATIVE POST SEPT. 11 ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE	+	MILITARY STATUS	+	SCHOOL AND EMPLOYER INFORMATION	=	BENEFITS
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### COMPLAINT SYSTEM

Veterans are able to contact the VA should problems occur at the university

Graphic by Kyle Pearson

before it comes to that kind of thing, since we try to build a rapport with veteran students here," said Lane Anderson, benefits supervisor. "Sometimes it's a letter from a parent."

When a complaint is filed to the VA, the VA

will bring the problem to the attention of the university, which then has 24 hours to respond to the complaint. According to the website itself, the system was implemented to "give the federal government the information

needed to identify and address unfair, deceptive and misleading practices."

All in all, the new programs allow for much better communication and oversight between veterans, the universities they attend and the VA.

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# New club hopes to bring harmony to Eastern

By Kailee Dunn  
STAFF WRITER  
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In late 2010, “My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic” reached a new demographic of fans who refer to themselves as a “bronies” or “pegasisters.”

Eagles of Harmony, a new club on campus, is calling all bronies and pegasisters alike as they try to uphold and promote the values outlined in “My Little Pony.” These values include kindness, loyalty, honesty, magic and generosity.

According to president Remington Klein, each pony from the show represents one of the five values. When the five values are in place, it creates a harmonious environment. This is where the name Eagles of Harmony is derived.

“We’re basically upholding those five pillars to give back to our community, to give back to the school and also be a medium for creative projects,” said Vice President Ethan Erickson.

Both Erickson and Klein think of themselves as bronies, albeit in different ways. Erickson explained this is because there are many connotations of the word, both bad and good.

“Brony is anyone outside of the intended demographic, who is interested in the show,” Klein said.

According to Erickson, his definition of a brony is simple: A male who is a fan of the show.

“You have to realize that there is

a lot of gross, a lot of terrible and a lot of disgusting ‘why would you make that’ stuff on the Internet based around [bronies] and that is kind of where we get our reputation from. So, I would call myself a brony, but only if we’re defining it by my definition,” said Erickson.

While they disagree on the definition, Klein and Erickson agreed the “My Little Pony” fan art is what initially drew them to the show.

“I had little sisters who were into the older ponies, and I was on the Internet and found a picture of the newer ones and I thought they were visually cool, but I didn’t expect anything of it. Then I kept seeing more and more of it on the Internet and got curious. I researched it and found that there was a huge fandom for it,” said Klein.

Erickson explained it was the fan community, that kept him interested.

“I came for the show, but I stayed for the fans because it’s such a big community and it’s such an accepting community. It’s a place where people who are usually labeled as ‘nerd’ or ‘weird’ can be themselves. I like that attitude because I don’t see that in a lot in the world today,” said Erickson.

Erickson said this club is more than just a fan club.

“We basically want to give back to the community based on the good things that we learn from the show and the good things we take away from it,” he said.

On Feb. 9, members of Eagles of Harmony prepared and served



Photo by Karissa Berg  
The Eagles of Harmony members bring “My Little Pony” comics to meetings to help inspire them with the ideals of the show.

meals for teenagers at Crosswalk Teen Shelter in Spokane.

As of now, the club has just over 10 members, and Klein hopes to introduce more people to the show and to the club.

Junior Ryan Hartwell said, “Just because the show is for a particular demographic doesn’t mean there can’t be something enjoyable for someone else. It doesn’t matter how old you are as long as you like it.”

Eagles of Harmony is currently working on designing a video game version of the show and are looking for more students to help. The video game is hoped to be a mix between the show and the video game “Persona 4.”

They are currently looking for students who are artists, animators, writers or coders. Those interested in helping to design the video game may contact Erikson

at gitman117@gmail.com.

Even those who just want a place to belong are invited.

“If you are looking for a place to be accepted and looking for a place to do well for others then that’s what we’re about,” said Erickson. “We want to be a safe haven, but also give that feeling away. We want to share this feeling that we have experienced through the show.”

# Biracial background brings challenges

By Ayanna Fernandez  
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Imagine not knowing who you are, where you fit in and where you belong.

“Three of the biggest difficulties with being biracial would probably be: Having to constantly convince people what your ethnicity is, feeling as if you have to choose between the races and being excluded from social groups because you are not ‘black’ enough or ‘Mexican’ enough,” said Mexican-American and African-American Eastern Washington University senior, Jackie Vaughn. “The last one is something I feel like I faced constantly while growing up.”

In today’s society, mixing races is common, it is a part of the norm. What is uncommon are the trials the biracial community undergoes. Facing challenges such as deciding which racial background will define who that individual is, as well as integrating various ethnic backgrounds is unimaginable, especially as an everyday lifestyle.

Growing up, African-American and Mexican-American EWU freshman Veronica Simmons thought she knew who she was, until a drastic move from Kansas City, Mo., to Washington showed her differently.

“We moved to Washington where my mother’s family lives, and it was hard getting used to a different culture, because the African-American culture was all I knew,” Simmons said. “It was new food, new environment, new people and a new language. As I grew up, it became easier for me and I was able to catch on.”

Nigerian and African-American EWU junior, Nnebeze Njoku, felt she had to hide part of who she was to be accepted.

“It was hard because I had my black friend teasing me because I was African and so was my name,” Njoku said. “Then my African family teased me because I’m not African enough and did not know the culture. When I was child, I tried hiding my African side from my friends because back then there was stigma on being African.”

Japanese, African-American and Samoan sophomore, Raina Frazier has had a slightly different experience growing up.

“I do not feel like I have to hide one side of my race behind the other but, just by looks alone from either side of my family, I could tell that I am

not fully either,” Frazier said. “Sometimes, it was difficult to find my place within my various cultures.”

With having diverse ethnicities, do holidays, family tradition and religious beliefs conflict with one another and how they are disputed?

“Mexican culture is very patriarchal and traditional gender roles are deeply practiced,” Vaughn said. “My mother always cooked and served my dad’s food as does my grandma for my grandpa. My dad and I never thought twice about sitting at the dinner table and waiting for my mom to serve us.”

Although this is a normal practice for Vaughn, some of her extended family members began to take notice of what they considered to be strange behavior.

“My uncles happened to notice and teased my dad about my mom serving him,” Vaughn said. “Something their wives did not do.”

Vaughn’s dad became embarrassed and told her mom not to serve him in front of his family.

Simmons, on the other hand, was forced from a religion she had grown to love, into a religion that was completely new to her.

“I grew up in a Black Baptist Church, I was used to all the hymn singing, dancing and the hyped church environment,” Simmons said. “When we moved to Washington, my mom’s family took us to the local Catholic Church and I hated it. I did not like how everything was so serious, calm and there was hardly anyone.”

Having gone through such a diverse upbringing, what kind of women have these little girls grown into?

“I am very comfortable with myself,” Frazier said. “I love being mixed and I feel like it’s the inside that counts. Color should not matter at all.”

“Now that I am here in college, I feel very comfortable because it is much more diverse than what I am used to,” Simmons said. “I know that I do not have to hide the fact that I am mixed because mixed is all around me.”

“When I was younger, I used to feel that it was a bad thing or more of a burden to be biracial,” Vaughn said. “Now, it’s no big deal to me whether someone believes or accepts what my ethnicity is. I am very much grounded now on my personal stance.”

“I do not care about what people say. I am proud of who I am,” Njoku said. “My ethnicity is what makes me the bomb. It’s what makes me unique. It’s what makes me who I am.”

“Sometimes, it was difficult to find my place within my various cultures.”

Raina Frazier

## Determination:

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

The life he found was not the one he expected.

He made the move to reconnect with his mother, after spending his childhood without her. Meeting her for the first time was not the happy reunion he had expected, but he decided to stick it out in Washington.

One year later, just as he was set to graduate high school, life got bad for Hankerson. What started as some underage kids attempting to buy beer ended with a man being killed.

An altercation arose when Hankerson and two other teens thought a man was trying to steal their money.

One of the teens, Alvin Mitchell, stabbed the man, 27-year-old Nai Vang Saetum, to death.

Mitchell told police that he and Hankerson had planned to rob Saetum, and that Hankerson held Saetum down while he stabbed him.

Hankerson said he was charged and convicted as an accessory to aggravated first-degree murder, resulting in a de facto death sentence.

It was later found that what Mitchell said was untrue. At least two other witnesses who helped implicate Hankerson later came forward to say their confessions were coerced.

“I was 18 years old,” Hankerson said. “I got convicted of a crime that I kept screaming that I didn’t commit, and nobody would listen to me.”

He said, at the time, Seattle was looking to make an example of somebody to show that the city was not going to tolerate people coming in and causing trouble.

He was their example.

Convicted at 18, on death row by 19, he celebrated his 21st birthday in solitary confinement. He sat in a room with a light that never turned off, with his thoughts anchored on what his life had become.

After three lonely years, he was moved into the general population. He said this is when he started to notice something.

Week after week, Hankerson watched new prisoners come in. Every Wednesday, he said he would notice new faces. Brown faces. Black faces.

“That’s when I woke up,” he said. “Maybe it’s not a coincidence that my life ended up this way. Maybe there is something wrong with the system.”

Dr. Latoya Brackett, Eastern’s

Africana coordinator, said the inequalities of the prison industrial complex is an important issue right now, and stories like Hankerson’s, help to bring injustice and the inequalities in the death sentence to light.

“When you put someone to death, you can’t take it back,” Brackett said. “This happens to so many young men, especially black men.”

Hankerson’s frustration with the prison system was boiling. After 10 years in prison for a crime he did not commit, he decided to do something about it.

He created an organization within the prison called the Black Prisoners Caucus, whose main purpose was to discuss the flaws of the prison system with people of the community.

He said his actions were viewed as a threat, and he was moved around the prison system.

Over the next few years, he tried to have his case re-examined at every level of the court system and failed every time, up to his 22nd year of incarceration.

In his 23rd year of incarceration, he applied for clemency. He said there was a huge groundswell of support in the community that advocated for his release. His case was brought to Gov. Christine Gregoire. After a brief consideration, he was denied clemency.

The community response to her decision was massive. There were a lot of people who wanted Hankerson to be set free. Constant lobbying from his supporters and a unanimous recommendation from the state clemency board persuaded Gregoire to reverse her decision.

On April 9, 2009, which happened to be Easter weekend, Hankerson was free for the first time since he was 18 years old.

“I understand what freedom truly means now,” Hankerson said. “I’m eternally grateful, and absolutely blessed.”

Since his release, Hankerson has been busy. Aside from his work with the NAACP, he is a board member of The Defender’s Association, serves on the state’s advisory board of the Office of Public Defense and is a member of Seattle’s Race & Social Justice Initiative Roundtable.

Jackie Vaughn, the leadership

“I got convicted of a crime that I kept screaming that I didn’t commit, and nobody would listen to me.”

Gerald Hankerson

“I understand what freedom truly means now.”

Gerald Hankerson

# EAGLE LIFE

## Wartime knitting becomes stress relieving activity

By Rebekah Frank  
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New York artist Sabrina Gschwandtner visited EWU to share her experience in wartime knitting and the impact it had during times of violence and death.

On Feb. 12, Gschwandtner gave a lecture about her work with film quilts, film from textile documentaries sewn together into a quilt pattern and wartime knitting. The lecture included a slideshow with images of her artwork, as well as a video she filmed about the different uses of knitting.

The wartime knitting, according to Gschwandtner, was used during times of conflict for many different purposes. Some people would knit body count mittens, in which one would knit the number of soldiers who died during the time they were knitting the gloves, while others made stomp socks and others were

made them to support the troops.

According to Gschwandtner’s website, many of the women who participated enjoyed the activity. One of the participants, Val Schermerhorn, wrote, “Thank you for creating a space for those who rage against the war but wholly support the troops.”

Gschwandtner also showed photo blankets of soldiers and families knitting during the war, including the picture of British women working on cozies.

“I wanted to display the images of the ways in which knitting has been and was used during wartime,” said Gschwandtner.

Gschwandtner also spoke about her work with film quilts. When Gschwandtner received film from the Fashion Institute of New York, she sewed the pieces together to make a quilt design. This brought on a new idea of preserving old films. According to Gschwandtner, the inspiration behind this piece is not wanting to see the film lost in history.

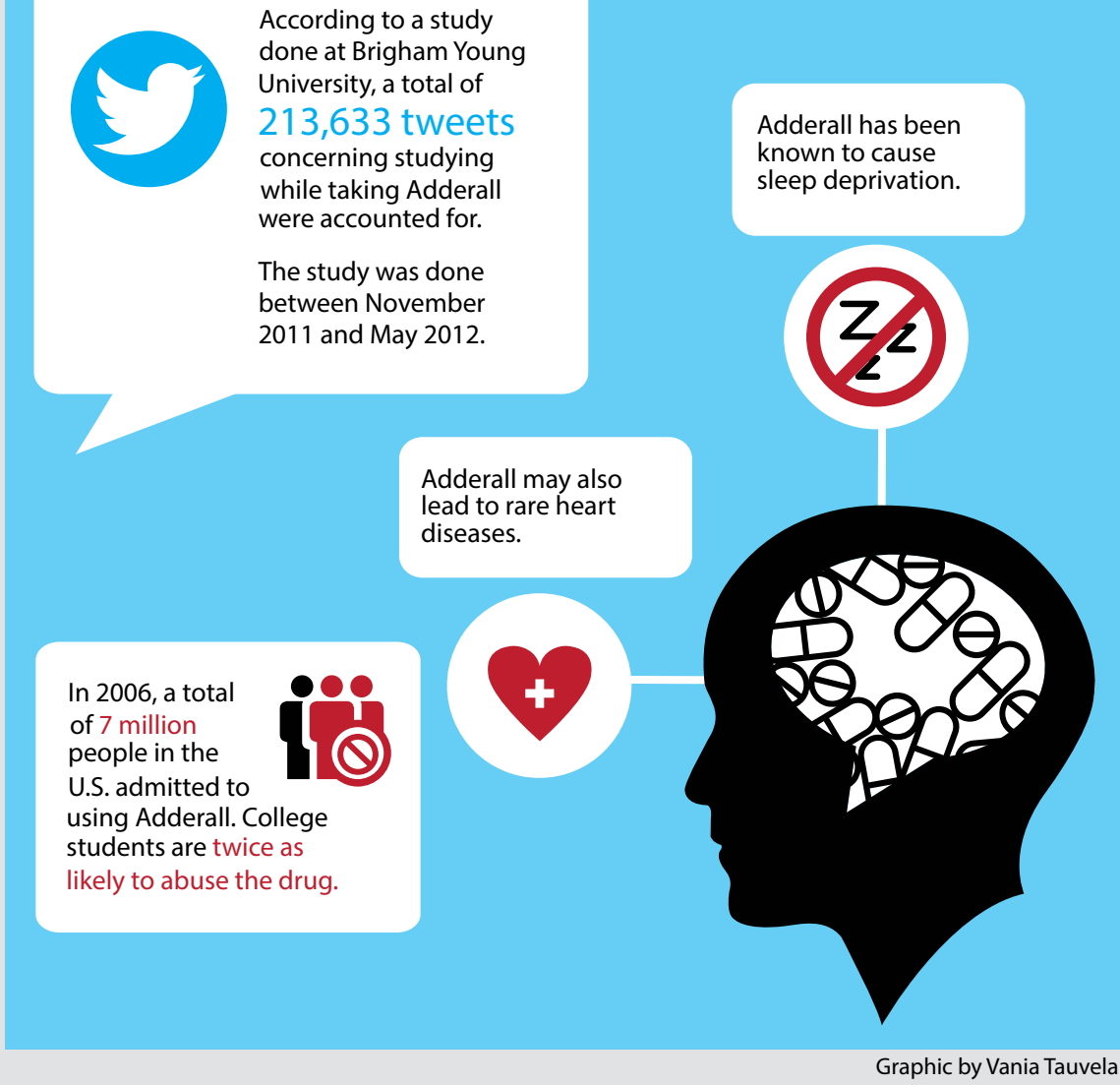
The film, Gschwandtner said, was “Important cultural material that I didn’t want to see discarded, ... I wanted to memorialize them in some way.”

Gschwandtner said she is interested in the idea of, “combining the photographic and the tactile.” She enjoys working with the images and texture of the film in way of marrying the two together.

When Gschwandtner displays her artwork, she does so where there is a lot of light. At one exhibit she hung her film quilts up in windows so that the observers could see the work and also see through it.

EWU junior Jennifer DeBarros said she appreciated Gschwandtner’s unusual use of film and imagery.

“As a studio art major with an emphasis in photography [Gschwandtner’s] interpretation of using an image in a whole new presentation was very intriguing. It is a great way to explore the image in a different way,” said DeBarros.



## Students take Adderall to cope and focus on university workload

By Rebekah Frank  
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When trying to juggle work, school, family, sports, social life, clubs and everything else, college students may become overwhelmed.

Coping with all the expectations and responsibilities, some students resort to drug abuse. The drug of choice for many students is Adderall, which is prescribed for the treatment of ADHD and narcolepsy. According to Coalition Against Drug Abuse, Adderall triggers the release of adrenaline which increases the heart rate and the blood flow which assists those with ADHD and narcolepsy to improve their behavior, focus and concentration.

Users of Adderall have often reported increases in their focus and concentration. These effects are what make Adderall attractive to college students. College students began sharing their prescriptions with friends and strangers alike as a way to study better.

According to Brigham Young University, a study was done to show how many students tweeted about Adderall and studying between November 2011 and May 2012. According to the research, there were 213,633 tweets concerning studying with the drug, with an average of

about 930 per day.

According to the research done by University of Kentucky graduate student Scott Jacobs, Adderall is, “one of the most frequently misused medications in the United States.”

According to NPR, one student found that after taking Adderall she was less fidgety and less prone to distraction while studying. “I would just be completely channeled into what I was doing,” she said.

However, Adderall does have a downside. According to Martha Farah, director at the Center for Cognitive Neuroscience at the University of Pennsylvania, although this medicine seems to be a wonder drug, it can cause sleep deprivation, rare heart diseases and can be addictive.

According to Medical Billing and Coding, an estimated 7 million people in the United States admitted to abusing Adderall in 2006, and college students are twice as likely to abuse Adderall.

College students use Adderall to help them cope with all the responsibilities and expectations that are placed on them. However, using Adderall does not help as much as students may think it does.

According to Tricia Hughes, director of the EWU Health, Wellness, and Prevention center, data from 2012 showed that the use of

prescription stimulants that were not prescribed to its users was less than five percent. Hughes also said that studies indicated Adderall usage is not linked to better grades. In fact students who abuse prescription stimulants have lower GPAs in highschool and college, than those who do not.

“Studies have found that prescription stimulants do not enhance learning or thinking ability when taken by people who do not actually have ADHD. Also, research has also shown that students who abuse prescription stimulants actually have lower GPAs in high school and college than those who don’t,” said Hughes.

EWU Detective Quincy Burns would like to remind students that it is illegal to use someone else’s prescription, and it is a felony to sell prescription medicine.

During the end of winter quarter 2013, EWU sophomore Matthew Taylor was feeling overwhelmed from the pressure of finals and trying to fit in amongst his friends. His friends were using Adderall and telling him about it, and Taylor began to consider using it as an aid in his studies.

“I thought about using [Adderall] to help me with my school, but I didn’t because I wanted to be able to say I did it by myself without cheating,” said Taylor.

The Easterner is distributed to a campus of over 10,000 students 30 weeks out of the year.

(Why isn’t your ad here?)

Danielle Matthews  
advertising manager  
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## Eastern teams prepare to plunge for Special Olympics fundraiser

By Shannon Bedell  
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On Feb. 22, three groups of EWU students will plunge into the icy waters of Liberty Lake, Wash., to support the Washington State Special Olympics programs.

The Polar Plunge is a series of fundraisers in Washington that help raise money for over 10,000 Special Olympic athletes. The Polar Plunge Spokane is one of eight plunges and is the fourth of the series. Participants in the plunge must raise at least \$50 in pledges to have the chance to take a dip in the waters of Liberty Lake.

The funds raised support athletes in many ways. For example, \$2,500 provides healthy meals for all athletes participating in the Winter State Games, \$650 provides training and competition for one athlete for a year and \$50 allows an athlete to receive vital health screening during a Healthy Athletes event.

This year Eastern has three teams participating in the plunge: Project Unify, the football team and Occupational Therapy.

The football team kicked off their support of the event by raising funds in a telethon on Feb. 8, which raised around \$800 in pledges. They have been participating in the event since 2012.

Project Unify is a new club on the EWU campus, and this is the first time they are participating in

the event. The club works to promote inclusion, unified sports and integrated activities which stems from a nationwide Special Olympics project.

Special Olympics Project Unify uses sports and education programs to encourage youth to develop school communities in which all youth are agents of change. The message of the project is to foster respect, dignity and advocacy for people with intellectual disabilities.

Project Unify President Caitlin Rice explained the club is focusing on the education side of the project. One of the main campaigns they are taking part in is “spread the word to end the word” which works to end the use of the “r-word.”

“Our goal is to raise \$1,500 and I believe we are almost there. We are \$100 away or so,” said Rice.

The new Project Unify already has 10 members from its team raising funds and hopes to get 20 people to commit prior to the plunge. The club currently has several members from therapeutic recreation and are working to reach out to other majors on campus that are in related fields, such as special education.

“This is our biggest event so far and [we] are trying to do a big push to let as many people know we are here,” said Rice.

As of Feb. 17, EWU Project Unify had raised the most funds of any Eastern team and was third out of all the Spokane teams, raising over \$1,900.

The Polar Plunge Spokane will be at noon at the Liberty Lake Regional Park.

“This is our biggest event so far and [we] are trying to do a big push to let as many people know we are here.”

Caitlin Rice



# Audience overreacts to Macklemore award

**Rebekah Frank**  
STAFF WRITER  
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After the 2014 Grammys, an outcry was raised over Macklemore’s performance and his winning an award. Macklemore performed his hit song “Same Love,” which is about equal rights for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender community, during the 2014 Grammy awards show. After Macklemore performed, Queen Latifah officiated for a marriage ceremony for 33 homosexual and straight couples during the show. I think this was a kind thing to do and definitely very memorable. I mean, how many couples get to say that they were married at the Grammys? It is definitely very cool. However, the controversy over this act



Frank

is ridiculous in my opinion. Some members of the LGBT community were supportive of Macklemore and his encouragement for their equal rights. Others were outraged about it because his song “Same Love” makes a clear point that he is not gay, and some members of the LGBT do not appreciate being exploited by a straight male. Other members were upset because Macklemore himself is not gay, and they believe he is trying to capitalize on the movement. People, Macklemore is a huge star and has a huge voice. Why are you complaining about him not doing things the way you want it done or about him not being gay? One does not have to be homosexual to be allowed to support equality and non-discriminatory goals. Arielle Scarcella made a Youtube video about how people in the LGBT community should be happy that someone with such a big voice is in support of their equal rights. Being upset over someone stand-

ing up for equal rights who is not gay is a waste of time and effort; instead those people should be putting their efforts towards their own objective. I completely agree with her video. If you do not like the way someone else is doing things, then do it yourself. All he is doing is standing up for what he believes in, and isn’t that what everyone wants to be able to do? “I like Macklemore because he speaks about what he believes in. He is not afraid to say what he feels. I only care about the quality of the song,” said EWU freshman Jessica Basta. After Macklemore and Ryan Lewis won the award for best rap album, many people started making comments about him being privileged because he is white. These comments ranged from, “he only won because he is white,” to, “he only won because the gays are supporting him.” According to the Wall Street Journal, Macklemore agreed with those who argued

that he was undeserving of a best rap album. He sent a text to one of the other nominees, Kendrick Lamar, apologizing for his win. According to MTV, Macklemore texted Lamar and said, “You got robbed. I wanted you to win. You should have.” Yes, Macklemore did a very nice thing in reaching out to his competitor like that. However, he still won fair and square. People vote for the Grammys based on the participant’s talent, personal image, morals and values. It has nothing to do with race. EWU popular music professor Larry Kee shared the same opinion when he said it was a “gracious thing to do in terms of reaching out to the other artist. They [artists] are going to be supported or not supported depending on what the public does.” In my opinion the responses to these events are just people overreacting, and to me the Grammys aren’t that important. Let’s focus our attention and energy on a more important issue, such as world hunger.

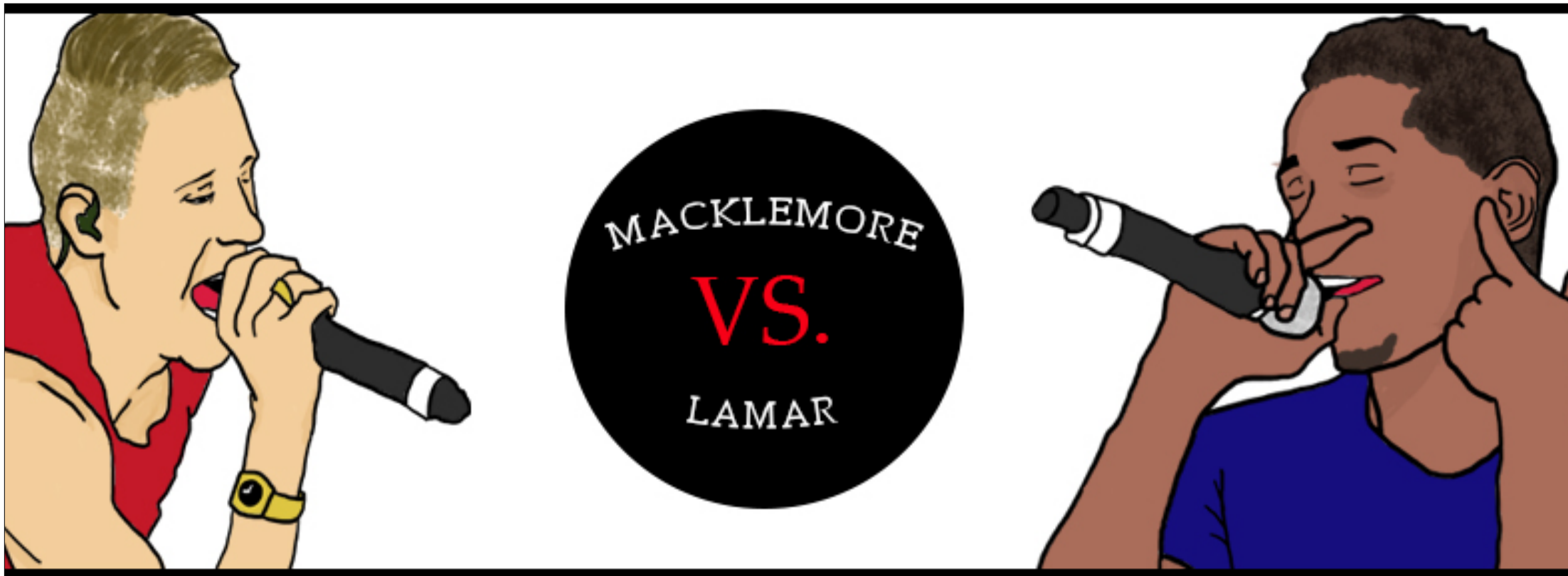


Illustration by Elsa Schmitz

# Grammys, Macklemore demonstrate white privilege

**By Galen Rock**  
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Growing up in a black household, one thing was always made clear to me: If you want to be successful in this society, you have to do things twice as well as your white counterparts. I’m sure the parents of Grammy-nominated rapper Kendrick Lamar told him the same thing as that sentiment held true the night of Jan. 26. Lamar, one of the best young rappers in the industry, was nominated for five awards, including a nomination in each of the major rap categories. He lost all three rap awards to his white counterparts, Macklemore and Ryan Lewis. The duo’s album, “The Heist,” is also critically acclaimed and as of November 2013, the album has sold over 1.13 million copies. As of December 2013, Lamar has sold 1.1 million copies. Both acts had nominations in the Album of The Year and Best New Artist category, meaning one of them was going to win in



Rock

each rap category over other rappers like Drake, Jay-Z and Kanye West. Also, neither award is as important to this discussion as the non-televised rap awards. It’s easy to point to album sales and commercial success as the sole reason for the duo sweeping the rap categories. But that would mean you accept the idea that our society is a meritocracy, where you are rewarded for your hard work equally and fairly. That would also mean you believe, one, Macklemore is a better rapper than Lamar, but that’s not likely. Or, two, you believe Macklemore made a better album than Lamar, but that’s even less likely. “The Heist” is nowhere near the rap masterpiece “good kid, m.A.A.d city” is. This is white privilege at work. The only reason Macklemore won was because he is white and he makes easily digestible music for a predominantly white audience. The Grammys are part of that predominantly white crowd. In fact, according to ABC News, there was some doubt leading up to the show whether or not Macklemore and Lewis deserved to be in the rap category at all. The out-of-touch Grammy voters saw it differently. I listened to “The Heist” twice, and both times I walked away pretty sure what I just listened to was not hip-hop. I actually believe Macklemore and Lewis

make pop music and are much more similar to Bruno Mars than Lamar, Jay-Z or West. Following the Grammys, according to MTV News, Macklemore affirmed many of these beliefs with a text to Lamar: “You got robbed. I wanted you to win. You should have.” Even pre-Grammys, Macklemore made statements that supported the nay-sayers’ case. “We’re up against [Lamar], who made a phenomenal album,” Macklemore told The Source weeks before the award show. “If we win a Grammy for Best Rap Album, hip-hop is going to be heated. In terms of [that category], I think it should go to [Lamar]. He’s family. [Top Dawg Entertainment] is family, and I understand why hip-hop would feel like [Lamar] got robbed [if he didn’t win].” Classy move by Macklemore, but after his blithe acceptance of the Grammy award for rap, it means nothing. He continues his ascent to mega-star, while Lamar works twice as hard to distinguish himself from a crowd of similar faces. Macklemore is very aware of this privilege. A track off his 2005 album, “The Language of My World,” is actually entitled “White Privilege.” On the song, he rapped, “Where’s my place in a music that’s been taken by my race?” Culturally appropriated by

the white face/And we don’t want to admit that this is existing/So scared to acknowledge the benefits of our white privilege.” In a CRWN interview with Elliot Wilson in August 2013, Macklemore discussed his feeling further: “But it’s something that I absolutely, not only in terms of society, benefit from my white privilege but being a hip-hop artist in 2013, I do as well. The people that are coming to shows, the people that are connecting, that are resonating with me, that are like, ‘I look like that guy. I have an immediate connection with him.’ I benefit from that privilege and I think that mainstream pop culture has accepted me on a level that they might be reluctant to, in terms of a person of color. They’re like, ‘Oh, this is safe. This is okay. He’s positive.’” The song and the quote are such an eerie foreshadowing of Macklemore’s present reality. They also show just how aware he is of his own success and the privilege the Grammys affords white artists. That awareness would have been great to hear in an acceptance speech for one of the awards he “robbed” from Lamar. But he didn’t even acknowledge the issue that he seemed so hyper-aware of. Instead, he smiled, spouted off clichés and walked off stage, award in hand, white privilege intact.

# Macklemore is not the savior you think he is

**By Zoe Colburn**  
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Imagine being 18, fairly certain you’re at least one kind of queer and massively terrified because you know what queer folks go through and you’ve seen the news stories, heard about kids being kicked out and ostracized and you’ve heard people first-hand say all “the gays” should be killed. Then, you hear about a song written advocating for same-sex marriage, written by a couple dudes from your state, and you’re floored. Then it gets popular. Like, massively, hugely popular, and you’re even more floored because, wow, people actually care. Then, it turns out these guys are straight and have no actual concept of the struggle you or oth-



Colburn

er kids like you will go through when you find someone you want to marry. And that’s fine, but here’s the problem: Everyone in the country is hailing these two straight dudes as some kind of saviors of the queer community. Imagine your frustration when, once again, it’s the straight, white men of the world who get all the attention. Imagine your frustration when the actual lesbian woman who helped write the song, Mary Lambert, is more or less completely ignored by the mainstream media. Imagine your frustration when you voice these issues and straight people tell you to just be thankful Macklemore is on your side. The sheer number of actual queer artists is huge — Azalea Banks, Lambert, Mykki Blanco and Angel Haze, just to name a few. There isn’t really a shortage of queer artists, and, to be honest, us queer folks don’t need a white knight on a valiant steed to save us from our tower of oppression. It’s not that Macklemore’s help

isn’t appreciated, but the focus of a movement shouldn’t be someone who lies almost entirely outside of that movement. “I think it’s cool he’s out as a straight ally,” said queer-identified freshman Rachel Walters. “But that’s just something a decent person would do these days.” I agree: Macklemore is a well-needed and, in my opinion, appreciated ally, but the fact that so many people are continuing to praise him for being a basically good human being and deciding that queer people deserve the right to marry like real human beings is insulting. And what’s even more insulting is being told to just shut up and be thankful this cisgender — a person whose gender and gender expression matches up with their sex — straight dude decided to grace our lowly movement with his approval. How dare I be even the slightest bit aggravated at a society that continues to value straight, white men over the truly oppressed and continues to place their voices and

opinions on issues directly affecting oppressed people high above the voices of the oppressed. Even when the oppressed are screaming at the top of their lungs for recognition. Even when the oppressed are coming out in full force hoping to catch a line. Even when the oppressed are ready and willing to take the stage. Yes, how terribly rude of me to be aggravated that Macklemore is given more recognition, for an issue that does not affect him, than the queer woman who wrote the refrain to his song. As the article “Stop Telling Queer People to be Grateful for Macklemore” published on Feminspire in September 2013 eloquently said, “to essentially paint a straight, cisgender person as the leader of the LGBT rights movement is incredibly problematic, and it ignores the queer voices that have been speaking to issues of equality for decades.” This is the root of the problem — it’s not that Macklemore is a bad ally or that queer folks aren’t speaking up, it’s that society as a

whole is ignoring the queer folks who are screaming for attention in favor of Macklemore. Lambert wrote an amazing love song from the chorus of “Same Love,” but she may not have been able to have her voice heard without the exposure from Macklemore’s song — and that’s the problem right there. Not to even mention the fact that Macklemore and Ryan Lewis are getting far more attention nationally than Lambert. “I feel like Mary Lambert should get more credit than [Macklemore] does, because she’s out,” Walters said. “I think a lot of people are in support, so the fact that he’s getting more attention is frustrating because she is out as a lesbian.” Stop telling queer folks to stop being upset that society continues to ignore their voices and their stories until they’re conducted through the story of a straight, white dude. Especially one who specifically felt the need to point out how straight he is while singing a song about queer rights.

# Easterner Asks

“What is one thing you could do to contribute to the end of racism?”



“Calming down and trying to not stereotype people.”

Moriah Biggs



“Start a chain reaction of kindness by treating one person with love so they’ll treat the next person the same way.”

Hannah Hodgson



“Promoting diversity.”

Cpl. Elvin Bermudez



“Overcome yourself, your prejudices.”

Officer Evan Cook



Question for next week:  
“What does diversity mean to you?”

## THE EASTERNER

*Serving the community since 1916*

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Elsa Schmitz**  
OPINION EDITOR  
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### Requirements:

- Letters should be 300 words or less and typed, or legibly handwritten.
- Include your full name, signature, telephone number and email address for verification.
- We reserve the right not to publish letters; furthermore, all letters are subject to editing.
- Letters must be received no later than Monday at 10 a.m. in order to be considered for publication the following Wednesday.
- If your letter is in response to a specific article, please list the title and date of the article.

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We encourage the campus community to submit letters and opinion pieces that conform to the requirements listed above. Opinion articles and letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of The Easterner, its staff members or Eastern Washington University.

# Human decency not found

**By Elsa Schmitz**  
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While the whirlwind that surrounded the newly-opened downtown Spokane business Daiquiri Factory may have subsided for the moment, the movement that sparked the multiple protests of the establishment has not. As a person who interacts with hundreds of strangers on any given day, I am aware of the dangers that lurk in the shadows thanks to the many stranger danger classes and talks I was given as a child. I’m not aware just because I am a young woman. I am aware because there are certain things that happen to people of all genders and identities that should not be taken lightly — and rape is one of those things. The Daiquiri Factory appears to have none of that awareness, classily naming one of the drinks listed on the opening menu as “Date Grape Kool-Aid.” Not only is this a possible copyright infringement, but the association the drink’s name has with date rape caused outrage and sparked two protests of the business. You think that this would cause the owner, Jaime Pendleton, to re-evaluate his drink naming methods. However, this was not the case, and his rather snarky comebacks to complaints and comments

did nothing to help his image. You see, there’s this thing called human decency. It’s the kind of feeling that makes you tear up when watching “Forrest Gump,” cringe when you see a poor skater kid fall directly onto a railing in a missed grind or give others using public restrooms that courtesy flush when things get a little too offensive. This same feeling should, ideally, allow us to realize that hey, date rape is bad. The drink name has since been changed to “Grape Q-Laid,” which, while seemingly less offensive, still manages to slip in a sexual violence joke in keeping the “grape.” Any sort of sexual allusion that contains that word will be perceived in a negative light, especially after the controversial name the drink first had. We shouldn’t be putting the spotlight on rape culture, especially not when the survivors and those affected do not get enough support. We should be focusing on overcoming terrible situations and becoming whole again. We should focus on the survivor and not the awful person who ruined another person’s well-being. While I myself am not a survivor, and cannot completely relate with those who are, I can wholeheartedly say that I am attempting to empathize to those who have faced difficult situations like this, and I know enough to not make a joke out of something that can be so damaging to a person’s well-being.



How would you have handled this situation if you were the Daiquiri Factory owner?



# Police Beat

By Amye Ellsworth  
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### Feb. 10 8 p.m. Agency assist

The university police assisted the Cheney Police Department in catching a suspect wanted for an assault incident at the Dollar Tree in Cheney. The suspect, who was a non-student, was caught at the apartment complex on Al Ogdon Way. He was booked into jail for fourth degree assault.

### Feb. 12 11:49 a.m. Harassment

Police responded to a harassment call in Martin Hall in which a former student felt he was wrongfully accused of misconduct by a professor. The man was escorted from the building, and no arrests were made.

### Feb. 12 3 p.m. Sexual assault

A female student in Dressler Hall reported an incident of sexual assault the previous night. Because this happened off campus, the case was turned over to the Cheney Police Department.

### Feb. 12 5:24 p.m. Theft

A male student in the PHASE locker room left his backpack out while he went in the sauna. When he returned, the backpack had been stolen. Most of the items were returned to the lost and found. The only item still missing is a prescription bottle with medication.

### Feb. 15 1:08 a.m. Agency assist

The university police assisted the Cheney Police Department during a verbal fight at The Grove apartments. One of the subjects had a warrant out for his arrest, but because county jail was full at the time, the subject was not detained.

### Feb. 15 1:32 a.m. Agency assist

The Cheney Police Department arrested one subject, during a fight, for fourth degree assault.

### Feb. 15 3:47 a.m. Noise complaint

Three people at The Grove apartments were cited and released for a noise violation.

### Feb. 15 9:26 p.m. Malicious mischief

A burn mark, believed to be caused by a lighter, was found on the toilet paper dispenser of a men's bathroom in the URC. This is the second incident of

damage done in this same stall. Police have no suspects at this time.

### Feb. 16 1:51 a.m. Intoxicated student

A male student on the sixth floor of Dressler Hall called police after he found his roommate intoxicated and naked in bed with an unknown female. The officers woke up the student and made sure he was OK.

### Feb. 16 3:35 a.m. Assault

Officers did a safety check in snyammcut hall after a male student slapped a girl. Officers observed red marks on her face, and the man was arrested for fourth degree assault.

### Feb. 16 6:15 p.m. Theft

Dining services caterers were working at an event and stored their purses in an empty room. They returned six hours later to discover they were missing credit cards and cash. Police have a lead on a suspect after one of the credit cards was used at Carl's Jr.

### Feb. 16 11:18 p.m. Trauma

Police responded to an unknown trauma call in Pearce Hall after a non-student's 11-month-old child fell and had a head injury. The child was transported to Sacred Heart Hospital after showing signs of a concussion. Child Protective Services was also notified.



Illustration by Elsa Schmitz  
A burn mark, believed to be caused by a lighter, was found on the toilet paper dispenser of a men's bathroom in the URC.

### Feb. 17 7:30 p.m. Fight

A student in Pearce Hall called police after she experienced continued headaches and vomiting after a fight the previous night. She was transported to Sacred Heart Hospital for possible head injuries. Police are still looking for the other individual involved in the fight.

## Tip of the week

Be careful when crossing the street. Make sure to look both ways and around parked cars that may be blocking your view. Also, put away your cellphone so you can concentrate better.

# Eagle men on fire after icy series of road games

The team returned to Reese Court and added two conference wins to record

By Ashlee Coffey  
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Eastern men's basketball managed to string together two wins at home, Feb. 13, against Sacramento State, defeating the Hornets 85-72 and, Feb. 15, against Northern Arizona University, defeating them 84-65.

"We needed to defend our home court this weekend, and we did that. It is a very gratifying feeling as a coach. What we are starting to see from our team is more consistency in the performance from each individual, and as we get that, we are going to be more competitive in every game. It was a great week," head coach Jim Hayford said.

The Eagles finished with 34 rebounds, a 55.8 field-goal shooting percentage, a 47.4 percent 3-point shooting percentage and only eight turnovers for the game against Sacramento State.

Junior forward Martin Seif-erth finished the game with 11 rebounds and 16 points.

"My teammates found me really good tonight. I just had a really bad game against [Sacramento State] at their place. It is a real tough stretch right now. We have to win every game," Seiferth said.

Junior guard Parker Kelly also finished strong for the Eagles with 18 points.

"I was overall just really proud of our team. In the second half, there was a little bit of a tough stretch



Photo by Karissa Berg  
Sophomore forward Venky Jois prepares to score. During the game, he scored nine points for the Eagles.

there, but for us to keep maturing and becoming a better team we have to fight through it. We showed that really well tonight," Kelly said.

Other standout players included junior point guard Drew Brandon, who finished with 14

points, nine assists and six re-bounds; junior forward Venky Jois with 12 points, nine re-bounds, and seven assists; and sophomore guard Tyler Harvey finishing with 16 points.

"I thought we had a great week

of preparation for this game and put together a really solid plan for how we could be successful. We really studied what happened in the game at Sacramento, and we had everybody on the same page. I thought that was what we saw in

the first half," Hayford said. The game against Northern Arizona University, Feb. 15, had similar results, where the Eagles ran away with an easy win, 84-65. The Eagles shot an outstanding 53 percent from the 3-point line, finished with 46 percent field goal shooting percentage, had 41 total rebounds and 12 turnovers.

Scoring 16 3-pointers in this game, put a new season high under the belts of Eastern men's basketball.

Kelly, Brandon and Jois were honorable mentions for this game as well.

Kelly finished with 12 points, Brandon finished with 12 points, nine assists, seven rebounds and two steals and Jois finished with nine points and seven rebounds.

Harvey was the "man of the hour" for the Eagles.

Though he was one point shy of a new career scoring high, Harvey still achieved 37 points. He also had seven rebounds and one assist.

"Luckily tonight they were falling for me tonight, like they were last weekend. My teammates were finding me well. Our inside presence has been big so they have to focus on [Seiferth] and [Jois] so it opens us up on the perimeter," Harvey said.

Eastern is on the road again Feb. 22 against Southern Utah State, but will return to play at Reese Court Feb. 25 against Northern Colorado.

## Williams:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

They urge schools to have a website or hotline where incidents can be safely documented by students.

Harvey Howell is a member of the hip-hop group Level Ground that performs at the "See It, Say It" assemblies. He has joined forces with Operation Healthy Family, and, like Williams, also grew up in Chicago. To Howell, it is important not just to talk at kids, but to get them involved.

"No one wants to be a snitch, but you have to stand up as a human and report what

you don't like," Howell said.

Howell believes bullying shapes long-term decision making more than anything else, for both the victim and the bully.

That is certainly true for Williams.

In addition to "See It, Say It," Operation Healthy Family has set up an after-school disc golf program that kids can join for \$35. If they cannot afford that fee, the child and their family can do five hours of community service at Second Harvest Food Bank to waive the fee.

"It's part of our philosophy to not give hand outs, but hand ups," Williams said. Additionally, Operation

Healthy Family is looking to partner with EWU's athletic department to gather dedicated volunteers who want to mentor kids in the organization's summer basketball league.

Williams is always looking for volunteers to help him with assemblies or fundraisers.

He has come a long way from Father Schonowski's office in Chicago, and his help around the community is just beginning.

"We don't have to settle," Williams said. "We can join forces with other like-minded businesses, organizations and schools, and create the community we want to live in."

## Sink:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

"Sometimes I wonder, 'How do we even know it's someone from our own floor?'" She said if the whole hall was

charged, it would only be a few cents each instead of \$5 for their floor.

"In all aspects, I guess it is fair if no one comes forward," Williams said. "But it's kind of frustrating that people won't take responsibility. I will probably pay it, but it's just the as-

pect of having to pay it."

"We're not trying to be punitive," Ratcliff said. "We just want people to take responsibility in their community."

She said that the fine has not been issued yet, and there is still time for the responsible party to come forward.

## Olympia:

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Henry Conyers, a senior in interdisciplinary studies, explained he really came to get

the experience and to get some insight into how things work.

"I've never seen the inner workings of government at work, and being part of it really gives you an insight on what is going on," said Conyers.

The Washington Student Association will continue building visibility and power around important higher education issues and keep legislators accountable.

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## Issue 16 Correction:

The headline for the campus drinking story on page 3 incorrectly states that alcohol violations have increased at Eastern. In reality, the violations have decreased.

# THE EASTERNER

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The Easterner is open for any EWU student or faculty who wish to write or copy edit news stories.  
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Photo by Karissa Berg  
Junior jumper Phil Puccino practices in the fieldhouse.

cino. "They said come out and I would have to earn my way on the team."

Puccino then earned his place on the team as a walk-on.

Going into the 2012 indoor season, Puccino placed third in the triple jump at the Big Sky Indoor Championship with a personal best of 46-10. He competed in the long jump at the Idaho Vandal Collegiate, placing third with a jump of 21-11 3/4. Puccino also had seasonal bests in the 55-meters, 60-meters and 200-meters.

In the outdoor season, Puccino hit three season bests in the jumps at the Pelluer Invite and won in the triple jump with a jump of 46-7 1/4, the long jump at 22-10 1/2 and placed second in the high jump with a 6-4 jump. He also ran a seasonal best at the Beach Invitational in the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.23.

"I was recruited by [Coffeyville] when I went to a track camp in Oklahoma, where I am originally from," said Puccino. "I went there and I was recruited as a heptathlete/de-cathlete."

In the 2011 season, he competed in the heptathlon and placed fourth at the NJCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships with a score of 4412 points and earned Junior College All-American honors.

Puccino's best performances at Coffeyville included the high jump, at 6-3 1/2, long jump, at 22-5, triple jump, at 45-3 3/4, and heptathlon, scoring 4530.

"I took fourth and I was an All-American heptathlete," said Puccino. "I then pulled a hamstring and started to look for other places to go."

After leaving Coffeyville in 2011, Puccino started to get in contact with Eastern.

"I got in contact with the old coach John Hill," said Puc-

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Puccino then earned his place on the team as a walk-on. Going into the 2012 indoor season, Puccino placed third in the triple jump at the Big Sky Indoor Championship with a personal best of 46-10. He competed in the long jump at the Idaho Vandal Collegiate, placing third with a jump of 21-11 3/4. Puccino also had seasonal bests in the 55-meters, 60-meters and 200-meters.

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# Championships approach, Eagles earn seasonal bests

By Erika Meyer  
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The Eagle track and field team finished strong at their last meet the at Husky Classic at the University of Washington capturing one more qualifying mark before the conference indoor championships.

"I was pleased with the team's effort," said men's head coach Stan Kerr. "They started strong and stayed that way through two long days of competition."

Freshman Erin Clark qualified for the pole vault, clearing a height of 12-0, which happens to also be her personal-best at EWU. That height has put her in ninth all-time in school history.

"[Clark] put together a great meet when we needed it most," said women's coach Marcia Mecklenburg. "That also adds some solid depth to one of our best events."

For the third time competing at the University of Washington, the Eastern distant crew improved their running game and recorded personal best times.

In the 3,000-meter race, Jordan Arakawa had a throw of 61-9/4 to place seventh.

Buchanan also had a throw of 55-5 3/4 in the shot put and placed fifth. Senior Vania Tauvela had a seasonal best in the weight throw with a toss of 58-7 1/2 and junior Emma Murillo also with a seasonal best in the weight throw with a throw of 55-7 3/4.

"Our throwers continue to put together performances that exemplify excellence in Eastern Athletics," said Kerr. "I know they'll be looking to do so again at the Championships."

In the 60-meter hurdles, senior hurdler Steven Warner ran times of 8.24 in the

The highlight of the distance running, was freshman Paula Gil-Echevarria who ran a personal best time of 4:54.78 in the mile, finishing just milliseconds off of Caitlin Prunty's school record of 4:54.67 set in 2004. Gil-Echevarria finished second in her section and 18th overall in the meet.

"[Gil-Echevarria's] near-school record was the highlight of the meet," said Mecklenburg. "For her to be inching so close to it as a freshman is outstanding."

Senior Zack Nielsen had a personal best in the weight throw with a toss of 63-1 1/4 placing fourth overall and senior Jon Buchanan had a toss of 60-7 1/4 placing ninth also a personal best in the weight throw.

Jordan Arakawa had a throw of 61-9/4 to place seventh. Buchanan also had a throw of 55-5 3/4 in the shot put and placed fifth. Senior Vania Tauvela had a seasonal best in the weight throw with a toss of 58-7 1/2 and junior Emma Murillo also with a seasonal best in the weight throw with a throw of 55-7 3/4.

"Our throwers continue to put together performances that exemplify excellence in Eastern Athletics," said Kerr. "I know they'll be looking to do so again at the Championships."

In the 60-meter hurdles, senior hurdler Steven Warner ran times of 8.24 in the

and 22nd overall. Senior Keisa Monterola cleared a height of 12-11 3/4 to finish third in the pole vault.

Junior Morena Mannucci leaped a seasonal best of 38-1 1/4 in the triple jump and placed fifth.

The Eagles cap off the regular indoor season meeting 27 Big Sky standard marks, 14 for the men's team and 13 for the women's team. Athletes can also make it to the conference meet by sitting in the top 16 in their events.

"Our team balance is taking shape at the right time," said Kerr. "I look forward to preparing for the conference championships."

What indoor track event is your favorite?

Tweet @Easternersports





# Redshirting helps athletes grow on team

## Women’s basketball players share their redshirt experiences

By Elohino Theodore  
STAFF WRITER  
theodoreelohino@gmail.com

The Eastern women’s basketball team has five athletes who have redshirted and one player who is going through the experience this season. Redshirting is defined as an athlete being able to practice with the team but not play any of the games. Redshirting also allows athletes to increase their skills

and work on their academic careers, while still being on the team. “By NCAA rule, every student-athlete that comes through starts their five years of eligibility,” assistant athletic director for student services and compliance, Joel Vickery, said. Every student-athlete has five years to play four seasons. According to Vickery, a typical scenario involves freshmen coming in and

redshirting right away in order to develop their athletic skills. Another scenario is when players get season-ending injuries that allow them to use a redshirt year that does not count within the four years of competition. There are also unique circumstances that happen as well. “Sometimes there’s more than one season where someone has to use a red-shirt,” Vickery said. This is usually the case for injured

athletes, where they need more time to recover. “If that’s all documented medically, then potentially we can apply for a sixth year.” As far as academics go, within those years that student-athletes have to compete, they also pursue a degree as well. “We track [athletes’ academic history] with graduation success rates, academic progress rate data, that the NCAA requires us to submit and we’re penalized if we fall below certain standards,” Vickery said.

Athletes redshirt if they need to meet certain requirements academically in order to stay in competition. The main requirement for athletes is completing at least 72 credit hours by their third year of school.

According to Vickery, there is a ‘40, 60, 80 rule’ where a student athlete has to complete 40 percent of their degree during their first three years of college. By year four athletes must complete 60 percent of their degree, and finally 80 percent by year five. If athletes fall below this rule, they are ineligible to compete.

Freshman forward on the women’s basketball team, Haley Shaner is currently redshirting this year to develop her skills for next season. “Right now I’m doing extra lifting, [and], on top of that, conditioning,” Shaner said. “Usually after that, I just come in and get [bas-

ketball shots] up and that’s pretty much it.” With 15 players on the women’s basketball current roster, it is difficult to get playing time. According to Shaner, for players to use their redshirt option for development, they must talk with their coaches ahead of time.

Shaner is currently using this time to get used to the college basketball atmosphere. “You get a chance to get used to the speed of the game and what it’s like to be on the court with older girls,” Shaner said. “On top of that, you’re getting stronger, and you’re able to compete physically more and you get your confidence.”

Shaner looks at shooting and post work as areas in her game to improve for next season.

Currently in her second year on the team, forward Cece Pearl redshirted last season. “Redshirting is a difficult experience, and it’s one of those things that you don’t know how it’s [going to] end up until the future,” Pearl said. “It’s a very positive thing academic wise as well, [because] you get one more year of academics.”

During her redshirt year last season, Pearl did extra workouts with the assistant

coaches. They would put her through 30 minute workouts. “You can put in the time and effort with coaches and other redshirts to better yourself for the next year,” Pearl said. Pearl played the post position in high school and, as a 5’11” athlete coming into college, she is smaller than the other players. So as a redshirt player last season, she focused on becoming stronger. Overall she has improved her shooting range and her basketball IQ, analyzing the game while sitting out last season.

Pearl also saw the redshirt option as a roadblock in getting to be with her teammates and building good chemistry within the team. “It’s difficult to not travel with them and not feel like you’re a part of that team,” Pearl said.

She also mentioned the adjustment players have to make when transitioning from high school to college.

“This is Division I collegiate basketball, and no matter if you’re a football player or a basketball player or a soccer player, I think everyone comes from being a star in high school,” Pearl said. “So the hardest thing is having to sit out because you need to progress your skills.”

“It’s a very positive thing academic-wise as well, [because] you get one more year of academics.”

Cece Pearl

### WHY DO ATHLETES REDSHIRT?

EVERY STUDENT ATHLETE HAS FIVE YEARS TO PLAY FOUR SEASONS

REDSHIRTING IS DEFINED AS AN ATHLETE BEING ABLE TO PRACTICE WITH THE TEAM, BUT NOT PLAY ANY OF THE GAMES

#### REASONS TO REDSHIRT

1. ATHLETES GET ANOTHER YEAR TO DEVELOP SKILLS
2. ATHLETE GETS INJURED AND NEEDS YEAR TO RECOVER

Graphic by Kyle Pearson

## Sports Bulletin

By Amye Ellsworth  
MANAGING EDITOR  
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### Women’s Basketball

They return home from their two-game road trip on Feb. 20 to take on Southern Utah at 6 p.m.

### Men’s Basketball

Junior guard Drew Brandon and sophomore guard Tyler Harvey were recognized as players of the week for their recent impressive statistics. Brandon’s 18 assists and mere two turnovers garnered Big Sky attention, as did Harvey’s hot-handed shooting.

### Track and field

At the end of the regular season, the Eagles are looking strong heading into post-season with 27 athletes qualifying for the Feb. 27 to March 1 Big Sky Championships. Several Eagles, including junior sprinter Brad Michael, senior thrower Zach Nielsen and junior jumper Morena Mannucci all achieved personal bests at the Husky Classic in Seattle.

### Women’s Tennis

The women continue to struggle after losing their fifth straight match. They were shut out 7-0 by Utah State. The team looks to break their streak on a Feb. 21 road game against Washington State University.

### Men’s Tennis

Eastern fell to Gonzaga 5-2 in singles competition. The doubles teams of Wacil Bendjelti and Luke Thompson, and Rendelle Burghart and Luke Ness, were able to secure wins for the team. The men will return home for a match on Feb. 21 at 5 p.m.

## Women’s basketball rebounds on two-game Big Sky road trip

By Elohino Theodore  
STAFF WRITER  
theodoreelohino@gmail.com

The EWU women’s basketball team played two Big Sky Conference schools, Sacramento State and Northern Arizona, Feb. 13 and 15.

During their road trip, the Eagles had a significant change in their rebounding in each of the games. Eastern had 43 rebounds in their win against Sacramento State, and only 31 rebounds in the loss against Northern Arizona. “I think in that last game we were just very lackadaisical,” freshman guard Jade Redmon said. “[Northern Arizona] wanted the ball more, and they were being more aggressive.”

The Eagles held on to win a close game, 79-73, against Sacramento State on Feb. 13. Eastern shot 52 percent for the game, while the Hornets shot only 32.4 percent. The Eagles also led in the assists category 21-13.

“I thought we shared the ball really well as a team, we had some bad turnovers,” senior guard Aubrey Ashenfelter said. “But, I thought we played really well, we hustled and we never really stopped played hard.”

During the first half, Eastern went on a 15-5 run by making their first five shots. Redshirt sophomore guard Hayley Hodgins knocked down back-to-back 3-pointers to put the Eagles up by 12 points. Sacramento State answered back with a 5-0 run to cut Eastern’s lead to seven, 23-16.

The Eagles would keep their foot on the gas pedal by going on a 19-4 run to increase their lead to 22 points. Eastern held Sacramento State without a basket for almost six minutes; however, the Hornets would rev up to 8-0 run, making the score 42-28 at halftime.

In the second half, Sacramento State took advantage of their momentum and cut Eastern’s lead to two. The Eagles finally fought back by getting to the free-throw line, Redmon converted four free throw shots. Redshirt junior guard Lexie Nelson also scored a basket to put Eastern up by seven points.

Sacramento State continued to defend their court by tying the game, 72-72 with less than a minute left. However, Eastern buckled down on defense and made their free throw shots to get their second road win of the season.

Nelson finished with a game high of 23 points making four 3-pointers. Hodgins contributed with 19 points, eight rebounds and a career high of four blocks. Ashenfelter chipped in with 14 points and 10 rebounds. Freshman guard Bethany Montgomery finished with 13 points and seven rebounds.

On Feb. 15, the lady Eagles played Northern Arizona on the road where they fell to the Lumberjacks, 86-78.

“Honestly I just think we weren’t really as prepared for the NAU game,” Ashenfelter said. “Mentally as a team, we didn’t really take it as seriously as we should have and I think that had a lot to do with it.”

Eastern shot 40 percent for the game and 42 percent behind the 3-point line. Despite the loss, the bench outscored Northern Arizona’s bench, 15-7.

Nelson scored a 3-pointer in the beginning of the game, later on Redmon would score to get a 19-9 EWU run to make the score 22-13. With 6:23 on the clock, the Lumberjacks cut Eastern’s lead to three. At the 4:15 mark, Northern Arizona would eventually grab the lead.

Senior center Laura Hughes scored to put the Eagles back on top. Nelson also converted on pair of two free throws while Montgomery scored a 3-pointer to give the Eagles a five point lead. Northern Arizona would answer back by scoring five straight points of their own. The Lumberjacks would lead at halftime, 37-35.

In the second half, Northern Arizona increased their lead to five points. At the 15:14 mark, they would continue their acceleration by going up by 10. Hodgins converted on a lay-up to stop Northern Arizona’s run.

Free throw shots from Nelson and Hodgins cut the Lumberjack’s lead to four. However, Northern Arizona would continue to be aggressive by increasing their lead again, this time by nine points. Eastern cut NAU’s lead to four once again, by scoring at the free-throw line.

With 4:56 on the clock, the Lumberjacks would leave the Eagles in the dust by answering every one of Eastern’s runs. Hodgins finished with 22 points, while Nelson contributed 14 points. Ashenfelter chipped in 13 points, while Redmon and Hughes finished with 10 points each.

With the significant changes in rebounding from both of last week’s road games, Ashenfelter and Redmon gave their views on how the team can be more consistent. “We just need to make sure that it’s a focus for every game,” Ashenfelter said.

“Just being more disciplined, and making sure that’s our number one goal is to box out first, and limit their offensive rebounds,” Redmon said.



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